BY JOHN ELFRETH WATKINS.

WANTED, by two great political parties, a dozen feet, or thereabouts, of good vice-presidential timber. A seant six feet may suffice either party, or a few inches over the two-yard mark will do, for good measure. Quality, rather than volume in the chief desideratum, and fibre should test up to the full standard for presidential material.

Citizen and factor in this widely

Citizen and factor in this widely heralded contest for the honor of rui-Citizen and factor in this wicely heralded contest for the honor of ruling over us, why is your interest ir presidential possibilities exceeded only by your apathy regarding possible fifth wheels to the Coach of State? Why are you satisfied to read a hundred columns of presidential prognostication to one stick of vice-presidential forseast? Amidst all of this bombliation about preference primaries and instructed delegations, have you heard one measty squeak sneat popular choice for the exalted and all-important office of heir apparent of your realm? Because you would have a right arm that is showy and strong—is that a reason for indifference that your left arm lacks blood and nerve? Ask any politician—whether of the peanut or the real matesman brand—his preference for the head of the party ticket, and he is as responsive as 2 hair-trigger. Question him as to his choice for second place and his tongue cleaves to the roof of his mouth, while his hand takes, with vigor, to head-scratching.











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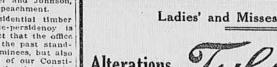
the first heir apparent who ever loved his father."

Before he ever dreamed of filling the vice-presidency, Theodore Reosevelt, in his "American Ideas" (1897), suggested that the second gentleman of the realm be given a seat in the Cablinet, a voice in the debates of the Senate and a vote in that body, not only in case of a tie, as now, but during ordinary proceedings. No one has ever backed him up on the proposition to break the States' uniform balance in the Senate by giving the Vice-President's State three votes, nor is there avidence that while President Mr. Roosevelt ever invited Mr. Fairbanks to sit at his Cabinet board. But this proposition to put the Vice-President in the Cabinet has been since voiced by other public men, including former Senator Beveridge, of Indiana, who has suggested, furthermore, that the President's running mate be given the appointment of the Senate committees, and, thus, a power superior to that formarly held by Speakers of the House, "The Vice-President is a piece of political biggested. He has reathing to

marly held by Speakers of the House.

"The Vice-President is a piece of political bric-a-bric. He has nothing to do but entertain," complained Mr. Bailey, of Texas, a few years ago, in the Senate. And those who saw Theodore Roosevolt yawn for several weeks in the chair of the Senate's presiding officer appreciated the sincerity of his complaint at the time to Mrs. Bellamy Storer, that he was a useless. "afth wheel."

As a matter of fact the Vice-President has no powers beyond the exercise



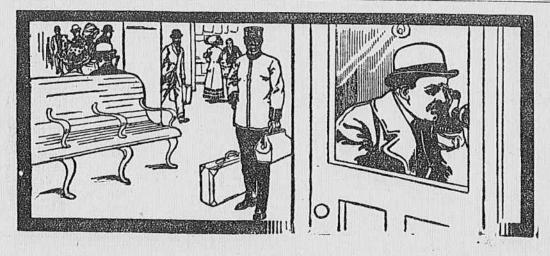


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